

Bonn pressing for missile talks

WASHINGTON (R) — West Germany's foreign and defense ministers, presenting their views to a sceptical U.S. government Monday, the disagreement over talks on short-range nuclear arms, (SNF) has created a deep split in the NATO alliance, with Washington and London strongly opposed to Bonn's position. President George Bush, travelling to Chicago aboard Air Force One, appealed to West Germany for unity in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. "My appeal to the Germans has been that we must keep NATO together, that we stay together... I talked to (Chancellor Helmut) Kohl the end of last week, and he knows my view that there must not be any unilateral, fail accomplish here," Bush told reporters. In a radio interview recorded before leaving for Washington, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said it was in NATO's interest to negotiate balanced East-West SNF cuts because the Soviet short-range arsenal is now vastly superior. He and Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg were presenting their case and discussing other arms control issues with Secretary of State James Baker and other U.S. officials, a U.S. diplomat said.

An independent English-language daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

جordan Times ينشر باللغة الإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الأردنية للنشر

Iran to amend constitution

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini appointed a 20-man committee Monday to revise the constitution. Tehran Radio quoted Khomeini as saying in a letter to President Ali Khamenei that the committee was to complete its work within two months and the revised constitution would be put to a referendum. He said issues to be discussed by the committee would include the leadership of Iran, centralisation of executive and judicial powers, reform of state radio and television and revision of the number of parliament deputies. Calls for the revision of the 1979 constitution were made after Khomeini, 86, sacked his designated successor Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazert last month, leaving a potential power vacuum in case of his early death. Iranian newspapers reported that one proposed amendment — backed by Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, tipped to become president in August elections — called for elimination of the premiership to centralise executive power in the hands of the president. Rafsanjani and Khamenei, as well as Chief Justice Abdol Karim Mousavi Ardebili, were among the officials Khomeini appointed to the committee.

Volume 14 Number 4070

AMMAN TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1989, RAMADAN 19, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence



His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

Thanks N. Yemen for its support for Jordan

King briefs Saleh on talks in France, U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Monday paid a brief visit to Amman and held a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein, who briefed him on the outcome of his visits to France and the United States.

The King also reassured the president about the situation in the Kingdom following several days of unrest in some parts of the country.

Jordan, which has transcended the difficult circumstances and the passing crisis, is back to normal now, the King said. He also voiced his

appreciation to the North Yemeni president for his concern and thanked the Yemeni government and people for their support.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, and the King's private advisor Amer Khammash.

The Yemeni president was accompanied on the visit by Deputy Prime Minister Abdal Karim Al Iryani and two other senior officials.

King empowers ministry chiefs to run affairs until new cabinet is appointed

Rifai government resigns

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday accepted the resignation of the government of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and entrusted the secretaries-general of the various ministries to run the affairs of their respective ministries until a new government is appointed.

In a message to Rifai accepting his resignation, King Hussein paid tribute to the outgoing Cabinet for its endeavours over the past four years and for its efforts to carry out its duty and maintain the momentum of development and progress.

Following are highlights of the King's message to Rifai:

"I send you and your colleagues my greetings and express deep appreciation to you for shouldering the responsibility of the government over the past years, exerting most sincere efforts to pursue and fulfil the Kingdom's goals and aspirations."

"I have known you over the past years as a statesman sincere

ly working for his country and capable of shouldering the responsibility and achieving the nation's sublime objectives.

"You have shouldered the responsibility under very difficult

and critical circumstances that required comprehensive review of the Kingdom's economic policies and its new directions and its plans at the national level. You have shouldered the task despite the difficulties that faced the region's economy and its negative effects on our economic march. You have exerted all possible efforts to execute our directives and our policies to end inter-Arab differences and mobilise Arab efforts. You helped start a new era of inter-Arab detente which began in Amman and resulted in the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council

(ACC), which is aimed at pursuing cooperation among Arab countries and which is considered as a luminary in Arab solidarity. This step will no doubt open the road towards further interaction among Arab states at all levels.

"These efforts also led to the establishment of a strong basis for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation on solid foundations of mutual respect and mutual assistance and support, providing all possible help to the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories where our brothers are struggling against occupation for freedom and independence.

"It is quite normal for our country to see different responsible groups and personalities taking turns in shouldering the responsibility to continue the process of construction and development. I express my deepest appreciation for your relentless efforts over the past years in shouldering the responsibilities and serving as a dear brother and a loyal soldier.

"In accepting the resignation of your government, I wish you and your colleagues the best wishes for success. I am confident that you will always be ready to serve this country at any post at any time."

Following are major excerpts from Rifai's letter of resignation:

"Your Majesty the King:

"I send you, Sir, my most sincere wishes and express my affection and sincere loyalty, wishing you success in the leadership of our nation.

"When Your Majesty entrusted me with the responsibility of the government over four years ago to serve under your leadership, I prayed to God to grant me the power to shoulder this heavy responsibility. All through the past years I have been praying to God to help me fulfil my duties.

"I have worked under your wise guidance and directives, and devoted my time and effort to serve you and the Kingdom, feeling continuously attached to Your Majesty.

"I have watched Your Majesty working day and night for serving this country and deeply in thought about means of achieving the best for your countrymen and their progress and prosperity in an atmosphere marked with stability and security.

"You have constantly worked and still work towards serving the whole Arab Nation and solving its problems. You have devoted your time and effort to bolster Arab solidarity and to transform this solidarity into a stage marked with consensus and agreement.

"Your Majesty's efforts have been crowned with success with the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — the dream of the past, the reality of today and the hope of tomorrow.

"Your Majesty have advocated the Arab Nation's stand at all levels and in all countries in the East and the West and in the capitals of the major world powers.

Syria to attend Morocco summit

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Syria will attend an emergency Arab summit in Morocco next month. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said Monday.

Sharaa did not answer directly when asked whether Damascus would agree to Egypt's presence at the summit, which has been called by King Hassan of Morocco.

But he told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) news agency WAM that Syria saw relations with Egypt developing satisfactorily and positively.

The emergency summit will also try to seek an end to Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war in addition to discussing developments in the Palestinian problem.

Sharaa said Syria does not want Egypt to attend the proposed summit on Lebanon, but would not object to its participation in future Arab summits.



A Palestinian casualty in the occupied West Bank

Beirut alight again; deputies urge truce

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Water and power supplies were restored Monday to Beirut where a group of deputies from the divided Lebanese parliament, mostly Muslims, met to echo a plea by Christian colleagues for a truce and a dialogue.

The city's battered streets bustled with activity as people reverted to normal business on a seventh day of calm after five weeks of savage artillery bombardments between the Syrian army and Lebanese militias, and mainly Christian soldiers of army commander Michel Aoun.

The coastal highway south of Beirut was choked with traffic as thousands of people who fled the fighting returned in check on homes and relatives while others, fearing a new flareup, tried to leave.

A French tanker delivered fuel to the Christian-controlled power station of Zouk, which supplies most of Lebanon. The plant stopped operations, cutting off running water services, a week ago when it ran out of reserves.

De Mita's meeting with the Palestinians followed a tour of Jerusalem's Old City. He held a luncheon meeting later with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. He also met with Finance Minister Shimon Peres.

they endorsed a call by 23 dovish Christian deputies last week for the promotion of dialogue instead of violence.

Patriarch Boutros Sfeir, who chaired the Christian meeting, and the deputies who attended failed to support demands by Aoun for the withdrawal of the estimated 40,000 Syrian soldiers in Lebanon.

In Beirut, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who heads an Arab League mediation committee on Lebanon, said it would propose sending an observer force to monitor a ceasefire.

The committee, which has met Lebanese political and religious leaders, is due to report to an Arab League foreign ministers meeting in Tunis Wednesday.

Arab observer force

Sheikh Sabah last week denied Kuwaiti newspaper reports that the Arab League committee sought to assemble an Arab deterrent force to intervene in Lebanon.

He told reporters Monday: "The observer force will not be a deterrent one, but rather a symbolic force assigned to oversee a ceasefire."

The truce would be an interim step aimed at stabilising the situation in Lebanon until a

Palestinians say polls should herald state

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Prominent Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories told Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita Monday they would agree to elections as a first step to a Palestinian state.

Ten activists from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip met de Mita and later hinted to reporters they might rethink their rejection of elections under Israeli occupation provided a subsequent troop withdrawal was agreed in advance.

"We said we are not against the principle of elections but we can't accept the conditions as set down by (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir," said leading nationalist Faisal Al-Husseini.

Shamir, in a plan disclosed this month in the United States, proposed elections in the occupied areas to choose Palestinians who would negotiate an interim period of self-rule with Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation has not ruled out elections but set the conditions of international supervision and

Israeli troop withdrawal.

"We told Mr. de Mita that if there is a package deal of more than one step and at the end we saw there was a Palestinian state, then it is not so important if the elections are the first step or the second or third."

"If there is no such complete package then we can accept elections only after an end to occupation," Husseini said.

He decided to go into details but newspaper editor Hanna Sajiora also spoke of a "process of withdrawal of forces."

Israeli officials have said the notion of withdrawing forces before elections was a "non-starter," adding that Washington agreed.

The Palestinians said de Mita, told them he believed Shamir's proposal was ambiguous but worthy of study.

Arab Journalists Association head Radwan Abu Ayash said: "Mr. de Mita said elections might at least make the process move forward."

Another participant, Hikmet

Al Masri of Nablus, said Palestinians wanted to know the final result of Shamir's plan before agreeing to take part in elections.

"If we know that the elections will end in establishment of a Palestinian state, we agree to it," said Al Masri, head of the board of trustees of Al Najarah University.

Gabi Barakat, acting president of Birzeit University in the West Bank, called on Italy to press for reopening the schools and colleges for more than 300,000 Palestinian students who have been out of classes for most of the 16-month uprising.

"Italy has cultural and educational relations with Israel," Barakat said. "Italy must threaten to break these links until Israel opens the schools and universities."

De Mita's meeting with the Palestinians followed a tour of Jerusalem's Old City. He held a luncheon meeting later with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. He also met with Finance Minister Shimon Peres.

Sources at the meeting said

Afghan rebels step up rocket attacks to mark revolution anniversary

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan guerrillas have stepped up rocket attacks on Kabul days before the anniversary of the coup which installed a communist government and ushered in a turbulent era which has claimed one million lives.

Two explosions echoed over Kabul Monday, sending columns of dust into the cloudy sky, as government troops blasted at rebel positions in the snowcapped mountains ringing the capital.

Mujahedeen rebels are using rockets which spray lethal shrapnel over a wide area, killing as many people as possible without damaging property.

At least 15 people have died in attacks on the city of 2.5 million in the past four days.

On Thursday, one of the usually inaccurate rockets scored a direct hit on the Soviet embassy, blowing out windows but injuring no one.

The pro-Soviet government of President Najibullah has invited hundreds of foreign guests and journalists to attend the 11th anniversary April 27 of the military takeover known as the Saur Revolution.

Kabul's muddy streets have been decorated with red flags and banners to commemorate the day officers stormed the presidential palace, killing President Mohammad Daoud and his family.

"The extremists (Mujahedeen) usually increase their attacks around this time to make their

Jalalabad, which government troops have successfully defended.

The sources said up to 8,000 rebels have died in the seven-week-old assault, compared with just 2,000 government troops. It said the rebels were badly outnumbered.

An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman, insisting on anonymity, said at least 263 people were killed and 123 were injured Sunday in the latest fighting between rebels and government troops in Jalalabad and three other areas — Herat in western Afghanistan and Khost and Kandahar in the south.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman said the latest casualties in Jalalabad came when the insurgents launched attacks on government posts.

In Islamabad, a Pakistan Foreign Ministry official denied a report in the New York Times Sunday that Pakistan ordered Afghan rebels to attack Jalalabad. The Soviet Union and Afghanistan repeatedly have accused Pakistan of aiding the insurgents in contravention of the Geneva accords under which Soviet troops ended their nine-year intervention Feb. 15.

"The Pakistani authorities emphasise that Pakistan was not involved in the war in Afghanistan. But the case is not so," Afghan Defence Minister Shahwan Tanai said in a statement released Sunday.

presence felt especially when foreign guests are in Kabul to take part in the anniversary," government spokesman Mohammad Aman said.

Most of the rockets land on Kheir Khan, a sprawling district near the airport.

The attacks have failed to disrupt life in the Afghan capital where streets are packed with hawkers selling vegetables and shoppers searching for bargains in the face of ever-rising prices.

"Why should I be frightened. If God wants me to live on, I will emerge unscathed from a hail of bullets," said Habibullah, a Kheir Khan resident.

"We have learned how to live with the attacks," said a young shopkeeper whose store has been riddled with shrapnel.

Pakistan denies report

Meanwhile, in Islamabad, Pakistani officials denied a U.S. newspaper report that Pakistan in March had ordered Afghan guerrillas to attack the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad.

But diplomatic sources in Kabul said there were deep divisions within Pakistan's military and government on whether the rebels should continue attacking.

U.N. accelerates Sudan relief with second plane

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations has brought in a second aircraft to speed up the airlift of famine relief supplies to the rebel-held town of Torit in southern Sudan, a U.N. spokesman said Monday.

Paul Mitchell said a French air force C-161 Transall plane joined the airlift Sunday from Entebbe airport in Uganda to Torit, 100 kilometres north of the Ugandan frontier.

The airlift, the first major U.N. relief operation inside rebel-held areas of southern Sudan, began Friday with a C-161 Hercules, which is flying 42 tonnes of food a day into Torit.

Mitchell, who had just returned from Torit, captured by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) two months ago, said about 30,000 people had

converged on the town in search of food.

But food was already being distributed to villages within a 25-kilometre radius and the movement of people into the town had stopped, he added.

Mitchell said the U.N. had a second Transall standing by in Entebbe to start airlifting food into rebel-held areas of southern Sudan shortly.

A U.N. spokesman in Kampala said meanwhile a U.N. convoy of 47 food trucks that left Kampala for the Sudanese border Friday was still on its way north.

The convoy was due to reach the Sudanese border town of Nimule in about two days. Egil Herdan, an official of the U.N. World Food Programme, told Reuters.

Herdan said the convoy would deposit part of its 1,000-tonne load of maize in Nimule before attempting to deliver the remainder to Torit.

Last month the United Nations launched a \$132 million famine relief operation to move over 100,000 tonnes of food into war-torn southern Sudan before the rainy season in May makes most roads and airstrips in the area unusable.

But the operation has got off to a slow start and U.N. officials now say that most of the food will have to be flown in over the next six months.

The rains are expected to make many airstrips in southern Sudan too soft for heavy aircraft to land safely, so large quantities of food will probably have to be dropped by planes flying at low altitude.

The U.N. estimates about 1,000 square kilometres of Ira-

Lack of funds plagues Sudan's higher education

By Dalia Baligh
The Associated Press

Khartoum — Imagine a medical school with no anatomy lab because floods washed away the old one and there's no money to replace it.

Or a library in a college of engineering with 2,250 students who cannot afford to buy more than one copy of professional journals.

This is Khartoum University, one of Sudan's eight government-run universities, a symbol of severe problems afflicting the system of higher education.

Educators say inadequate financing for schools and generally dilapidated facilities have created a situation potentially more threatening to Sudan than the protracted economic and political crises and civil war in Africa's largest country.

Like Sudan itself, the problem is full of contradictions. Of 45,000 high school graduates every year whose grades qualify them to enter universities, places exist for only 5,000.

At the same time, the universities annually graduate around 7,000 people into a job market in which 33,000 university graduates in Khartoum alone are unemployed. One desperate group of them went on a hunger strike recently but got nothing for their trouble.

"We demanded 300 million pounds (\$25 million) for the university this year, but the government only gave us 128 million pounds (\$10.6 million)," said Abdul Basset Mohammad Ali of Khartoum University's planning and development division.

"We inherited these universities from colonial times. The buildings are old and need re-

furbishing," he said in an interview. "We need to review our degree structures according to the needs of labour. But that kind of change means innovation, and that means expense that we cannot afford."

Lack of adequate funds has caused a multiplicity of related problems.

Mohammad Omar Beshir, a professor at Khartoum University's Institute for African and Asian Studies, said nearly half the school's 1,200 professors had left for better-paying jobs in the Gulf states.

A beginning university professor at Khartoum University gets around 2,000 pounds (\$166), a month, much more than government bureaucrats but less than a teacher earns in a private secondary school.

A senior university lecturer can make double the starting salary, but in Saudi Arabia or

other Gulf countries, he can take home 20 times as much money and live much more comfortably.

The financial squeeze also makes it difficult to renovate or expand teaching facilities and buy supplies and equipment.

Abdul Rahman Abu Zayd, former dean of Juba University in southern Sudan and now head of Omdurman National College, said nearly 30-year-old library reference books are common. Some are as old as 50 years.

"The books are no longer up to date," he said. "But books are expensive all over the world, and we have almost no foreign exchange" to buy them.

Instruments and equipment are in severely short supply in institutions specialising in the practical sciences.

At Khartoum University's

medical school, torrential rains last August triggered floods that ruined the anatomy laboratory. The university has appealed, so far unsuccessfully, to the international community for money to build a new laboratory.

Such shortcomings have limited the numbers of students who can be accommodated in disciplines such as medicine and engineering. This means students usually find themselves studying the humanities whether they like it or not. On graduation, they find no market for what they've learned, except possibly as poorly paid teachers turning out more unemployed arts graduates.

Some pioneers are trying to change that. Abu Zayd said he is introducing courses of study at Omdurman National to produce graduates with technical skills.

"We're producing people who will find jobs," he said. "We train them to be assistants in medical laboratories, computer studies, executive secretaries, dental technicians, in environmental studies..."

"For example, instead of offering a five-year engineering degree where we only teach engineering, we also offer a three-year programme in which the student learns engineering and decorating and studies on electric appliances. These engineering assistants find much more work (in Sudan) than engineers."

Such innovations are possible for Abu Zayd because his university is private. Its students pay 5,000-6,000 Sudanese pounds (\$416-\$510) annually, while education is free in the government-owned universities.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Yousef Smeirat 821311
Dr. Abdil Azz Al Khalaf 663522
Dr. Yousef Samour 615648
Dr. Mahmoud Abu Mahfouz 793344
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 770334
Nurulpharmacy 623672
Al-Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be dry and relatively hot and winds will be northeasterly moderate.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 61111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 6210341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 621111, 621777
Fire Brigade 6200043
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 65639091
Public Security Department 656000, 685111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 601176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre N1313132
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 6442816
Akhileh Maternity, J. Ann 6434412
Jabal Amman Maternity 6432302
Malibas, J. Ann 6316141
Shmeisani Hospital 699135
University Hospital 6442555
Al-Mansher Hospital 6612729
The Islamic, Al-Hall 6612737
Al-Ahli, Al-Ahli 6541546
Italian, Al-Muajzeen 7771013

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 522423, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Khomeini to name son as successor — Rajavi

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Iranian rebel leader has said that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini intended to name his son Ahmad to succeed him as Iran's spiritual leader.

The Baghdad-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq group, said in a telexed statement to the Jordan Times Sunday that Khomeini was removing "political, religious and social obstacles standing in the way of Ahmad's nomination."

Ahmad does not hold official office, but he is Khomeini's chief aide and often sits on high-level policy-making meetings with the brief of reporting back to his father.

"One of Khomeini's plans for boosting Ahmad's status is to have him participate in the upcoming electoral race (presidential elections) next summer," Mujahideen-e-Khalq leader Massoud Rajavi was quoted as telling the Voice of Mojahed, the radio of the rebel group.

"In this way, Khomeini intends to show that his son has the people's vote."

Khomeini, 86, has no apparent heir after dismissing his designated successor, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, last month.

"Khomeini intends to fill the vacuum created by Montazeri's deposition with his son, Ahmad, as his regime's sham presidential elections approach," Rajavi said.

Currently, he is preparing the ground for such a ridiculous appointment — which violates his regime's constitution — by removing all the numerous religious, political, and social obstacles.

The constant undermining of (Parliamentary Speaker Hashemi) Rafsanjani's position is to be seen in this light. Khomeini is attempting to implement his intent through calls and requests that seemingly come from the lower ranks of his regime, because Ahmad does not have any of the necessary qualifications for leadership, whether political, legal or otherwise.

According to Khomeini's constitution, which is based on the principle of *velayat-e-faghih* (absolute rule of the



Massoud Rajavi

jurisprudent), Khomeini's successor must be elected from among the Shi'ite maraja'a (leading spiritual authorities).

"Rafsanjani, who has already indicated his candidacy for the presidency, hoped to gain sufficient clout through a revision of the constitution. But that the recent request for such revisions mainly came from the 'line of the imam' faction in Khomeini's parliament was a clear outmaneuvering of Rafsanjani," Rajavi said.

Rajavi said the "Khomeini regime's deadly impasse, which demonstrates in lack of a future and the inevitability of its overthrow, consists of the fact that if he fills Montazeri's place with Rafsanjani then his regime would fall apart."

"On the other hand, if he names his son as his successor, it would be another 'caliphate of poison' that would spell the end for the entire regime and its institutions, especially since Ahmad is in no way capable of running the regime's affairs and will be the brunt of everyone's jokes as an ignorant, opium-addicted heir. Moreover, his rise to power through his father's influence would be seen by the people as a return to the despised monarchy they overthrew for ever."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Lahd has second narrow escape

MARJA YOUN

Lahd has narrowly escaped being shot when Israeli troops fired at his convoy by mistake in South Lebanon, sources said Monday. Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanon Army (SLA), escaped an assassination attempt only last November. He was shot and seriously wounded at his home in Marjayoun by a ballet teacher. Security sources said troops shot at Lahd's convoy Sunday as it approached their vehicles inside Israel's self-declared "security zone." Lahd's car was hit by "many bullets but no one was wounded," one source said. He said Israel had banned cars from approaching its convoys after a series of suicide bomb attacks. Israeli officials later apologised to Lahd, 61, saying they had not recognised him.

Sudanese Muslim cleric jailed

KHARTOUM

A criminal court Monday jailed for two months a Muslim cleric who allegedly led a weekend arson attack on a Roman Catholic relief centre. The criminal court at Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city across the Nile River, issued the sentence after convicting the preacher of public disorder. Neither court officials nor police would disclose the cleric's name. Last Friday, the imam told Muslims praying in his mosque that they had become weak. He cited as proof the presence nearby of a relief centre run by the Missionaries of Charity, a mission for the poor founded by Nobel Prize laureate Mother Teresa. The imam then allegedly led his followers against the centre, which was damaged. Christians retaliated the next day by torching the imam's mosque. There was no estimate of damage to the relief centre, but an Islamic newspaper said damage to the mosque totalled 100,000 Sudanese pounds (\$8,335).

Egyptian police arrest 1,500 extremists

CAIRO

Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr was quoted Monday as saying a 1,500 alleged Muslim fundamentalists were arrested during the past two weeks. Interior Ministry sources said Badr made his remarks during a banquet Sunday night at the police academy in Cairo. "These extremist groups are fueling religious strife in the country and they must be met with force. We will meet violence with violence," the sources quoted Badr as saying. The sources said the arrests were made under emergency laws in force since 1981 which empower police to detain suspects indefinitely without any formal charges. The nationwide crackdown followed a violent clash after Friday prayers April 7 between Muslim extremists and police in the oasis town of Fayoum, southwest of Cairo.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:25 Kuwait (KU)
12:30 Bahrain (BAH)
13:45 Cairo (CAI)
14:00 Muscat, Dubai (MUS)
16:00 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (ABU)
16:15 Jeddah (JED)

Other Flights (Terminal 3)

National News

Qatanani briefs peace group

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing an international peace group now visiting Jordan was briefed on the Kingdom's services provided to the residents of the Palestinian refugee camps.

The group, which represents Pax World Foundation/Peace Link, met with Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department with whom its members discussed the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, according to an official statement Monday.

The statement said that Qatanani reviewed with the 20-member group the general conditions of the Palestinians under Israeli

rule and the sufferings under occupation. He said that the government was providing continued assistance to the Palestinian people now involved in the intifada against occupation; and also to the residents of Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Qatanani answered questions put to him by the group members about the Palestine question.

The delegation which has been here for the past two days will cross into the occupied Arab territories Tuesday and will return to Jordan following their tour of the Arab areas under Israeli rule.



Ahmad Qatanani

Government encourages more rural development corporations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Monday announced that it was taking steps to encourage the establishment of development corporations in various towns similar to the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) which is operated on voluntary basis.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Marwan Hmoud, chaired a meeting to discuss steps that should be taken in this direction, and to assess the SDC's progress and achievements.

The meeting which was attended by senior ministry officials and heads of development corporations in Salt, Irbid, Fuheis and Zarqa looked into measures that could be taken to encourage various towns and villages to establish corporations which could build strong bridges of cooperation with the local population and help municipalities carry out various schemes.

The meeting discussed incentives to be given to corporations in order to assist them to carry

out socio-economic projects and help the municipalities' construction programmes.

The minister stressed that these voluntary institutions helped municipalities to develop their services and contributed towards rural areas development. Hmoud called for periodic meetings between the corporations themselves to exchange views about

2 Islamic meetings

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will open two seminars in June one dealing with studies and research work in Islamic fields and the other dealing with patterns of living in Islamic nations.

According to Sawi Al Shaab daily the first seminar aims at increasing interaction among Islamic institutions and scholars and further cooperation in improving the conditions of Islamic societies with the application of modern science and technology.

Various Islamic organisations

from the Arab and Islamic world have been invited to take part in the five-day meeting.

According to the paper, the second seminar which has been organised by the World Health Organisation's regional office deals with various living patterns and behaviours in the Islamic world and means of disposing of bad customs and adopting a set of rules for an ideal society.

At least 57 scholars and intellectuals will take part in the second seminar which will be held at the Regency Hotel in Amman.

The meeting also discussed the idea of setting up a consultative council and amendments to laws benefiting these corporations. The meeting decided that the heads of the four corporations pay visits to the SDC and examine its programmes and activities.

attached great importance to the preparatory meetings and the round table conference which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The round table meeting, which is scheduled for June 12 and 13, is designed as a first step in pursuing Jordanian-Indian endeavours for stimulating trade and boosting cooperation in the economic and industrial fields.

AILF pledges full support for Palestine

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The central council of the Arab International Labour Federation (AILF) has issued a statement voicing its full support for the Palestine state and said that it would launch a campaign to back the Palestinian intifada in the occupied Arab territories.

The statement, following the conclusion of the council's three-day meeting in Amman said that the backing to the Palestinians would mainly go to the labour unions and union leaders.

The council backing will be moral and financial and at the international level, the statement noted.

The council members held discussions on labour issues in the Arab World and those in the Israeli-held Arab territories and announced that Egypt's labour federation will be reinstated as a full fledged member in the federation.

The federation of the Jordanian labour unions and those of Djibouti and North Yemen also have been accepted as fully fledged members in the federation, according to the statement.

The council discussed matters that would be included in the agenda of the federation's eighth meeting to be held in Algiers.



Director of the Iraqi Fund for Development Faeq Abdul Rasoul (right) and Ministry of Trade and Industry Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf (second from right) Monday sign minutes of trade talks between Iraq and Jordan (Petra photo)

India, Jordan open trade talks in New Delhi

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian economic and trade delegation opened talks in New Delhi Monday with Indian officials and businessmen in preparation for a round table meeting to be held in Amman in June to discuss Jordanian-Indian economic and trade cooperation.

The Jordanian team is led by Khaldoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, who said the two sides

attached great importance to the preparatory meetings and the round table conference which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The round table meeting, which is scheduled for June 12 and 13, is designed as a first step in pursuing Jordanian-Indian endeavours for stimulating trade and boosting cooperation in the economic and industrial fields.

Land ownership studied

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University announced Monday that it has just completed a month-long study on disintegration of land ownership in the Zarqa River basin.

A statement issued by the university's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology which conducted the study, said that four researchers conducted surveys in the villages of Al Aouk, Bani Hassan and Rumeimin, all within the basin's area.

The study included a census and a comprehensive survey with

regard to the local residents' living conditions and the types of crops they grow.

The study also entailed an examination of the patterns of agricultural and economic activities conducted by the local people. According to the statement, the researchers submitted their findings to the Ministry of Agriculture which is currently carrying out land development projects in the Zarqa River basin in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies.

AMMAN (Petra) — An Iraqi-Jordanian committee assigned the task of following up the implementation of projects programmes set by the Joint Jordan-Iraqi Higher Committee wound up a meeting in Amman Monday and signed the minutes of its deliberations; an official statement following the closing session said that the two sides reviewed

bilateral cooperation in commercial, industrial and agricultural fields and looked into measures to promote cooperation in health, air transport, agricultural marketing and railways as well as contracting operations in both countries.

The Jordanian side to the meeting stressed the need for increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. The

statement noted that Iraq and Jordan will set up fairs in Amman and Baghdad to help promote the sale of national products.

In this respect an Iraqi fair will be organised in Amman in the autumn of 1989 and a Jordanian fair will be held in Baghdad in September 1989, and will be allowed to sell directly to the public and to Iraqi companies.

In Industry, the two sides agreed on measures to speed up the application of unified standards and specifications and will exchange expertise and ideas on industry-related affairs.

Iraq has expressed readiness to contribute to the phosphoric acid project at the Shidieh phosphate mine and will acquire a 30 per cent share in that project.

Both sides agreed on launching cooperation in agricultural fields specially in improving crop production, combating pests like desert locusts and irrigation schemes.

The committee decided that agricultural products of both countries be given priority and

preference in national markets. It also called for speeding up the process of linking the national grids and reviewed land transport.

The two sides expressed a fact with the working committee working on a joint project linking Bagdad with Amman and decided to set up a working team to follow up the implementation of the project's studies in six months. The committee recommended that contracts be made with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to finance the studies whose cost is expected to reach \$1 million.

In health affairs, the two sides decided to exchange information and expertise in laboratory hospitals and training of medical cadres.

The minutes were signed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf and Faeq Abdul Rasoul, director of the Iraqi Fund for Development.

Troubadours hit Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and Princess Alia Al Faisal, the French Cultural Centre in collaboration with the National Music Conservatory, presents the Group Rosamunda

who has been singing Troubadour poetry for more than 10 years.

Troubadour culture is brought back to life by the members of the musical group.

During the 12th and 13th centuries, these "finders" from the south of France were the inventors of a new poetic style based on a new culture founded on the *Fin' amor* (courtesy). If they were influenced by the traditional background of erotic, satiric, and bacchic songs composed in Latin, they soon gave up this language and decided to sing in a common language ("Language of Oc"), and make of love the condition of

all virtues. This cultural revolution quickly spread all over the Occident. Their texts were sung in England and in Portugal for the king of Hungary, as well as for the king of France.

But how can we sing the Troubadour texts 7 centuries after? Gerard Treherne, si

ui of the phrases and on the doubted influence of My Spain with perfect knowle

Troubadour culture. The great expressiveness and passion, sometimes dangerous and fasci

inating.

He performs with 3 excellent musicians, Jacques Khoudir, Patrick Font, and Fabrice Brient who is a medieval lutanist and maker of the group's instruments.

Many reasons for pastures shortage

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pasture lands in Jordan are limited and insufficient for breeding great numbers of livestock but there are good areas of land which can easily be turned into useful pasture land to make up for this shortage, according to Ghaleb Abu Arrabi, director of the afforestation and range department at the Ministry of Agriculture.

He said in a recent interview with the Al Rai Arabic daily that despite this obstacle existing pasture land provide for nearly 70 per cent of the needs of goats, sheep and camels in the Kingdom, although less than 200 millimetres of water fall on this land in the winter season.

Abu Arrabi attributed the meagre areas of pasture land in Jordan to the following reasons:

— Early grazing when animals are allowed to graze in areas with no fully grown grass, uprooting and burning shrubs or small trees to be used as fuel.

— The spread of machinery and the extensive use of vehicles to transport sheep which led to the damage of the pasture lands, poor rainfall, development of land for growing crops and fruit trees, and the expansion in building operations which caused the pasture land to shrink.

Abu Arrabi said that so far nearly 20 per cent of pasture lands have been swallowed up by buildings and factories.

Abu Arrabi proposed sowing large areas of land with seeds to increase the vegetation, planting shrubs and trees for land reclamation.

Asia and Abdul Karim wed at Al Hussein Society in 1986. His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zaid attended



Asia, Abdul Karim and their son Ra'd at their home in Marka in a recent photo taken by Hind Lara Mango

Living with an otherwise avoidable disability

By Hind Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — There has been recent panic in Jordan concerning certain diseases such as Meningitis and Polio, both of which are fatal if contracted and may result in death.

"Rumours were that we, in

Jordan, were going to get the Polio virus from the West Bank where it was attacking many," said Dr. Janir Halazon, a pediatrician and hematologist in Amman. "Jordan's population is very well vaccinated," he explained, "and the government is making sure that poor rural areas where there is a high possibility of acquiring

the virus, are made aware of the importance of vaccination. In endemic areas such as the West Bank extra precautions are taken. Children are usually vaccinated at an early age, but in the case of infected areas, a baby is given an extra Polio vaccine as soon as he is born," said Halazon.

Polio virus infections are common among human beings and the most susceptible victims are infants and young children living in conditions of poor hygiene. Halazon confirms that Polio has been eradicated in Jordan because of the social awareness campaigns carried out by the Ministry of Health. "The ministry has reached many people in the rural areas, and more than 98 per cent of the children there have been vaccinated."

There are many types of Polio: the abortive, nonparalytic (aseptic Meningitis) and the paralytic disease involving the nervous system. "If an infected child is lucky, he or she will have only one limb paralysed, the lucky ones survive and the unlucky ones die."

Asia and Abdul Karim Al Asal are Polio victims. Both contracted the disease as children of less than one year. The reason was their parents' ignorance of the importance of vaccination.

Asia is now 24 years old and will always carry the scars of Polio — the whole of her right leg is paralysed. However, Abdul Karim, now 35 years old, did not escape as easily as Asia; both his legs are paralysed and he cannot get by without the aid of a wheelchair.

But the income that came from selling these toys was hardly enough for him to survive. So he made himself a special bicycle with which he could move around more easily and have a bigger chance of finding a job. "I wanted to feel independent like any other man," he said remembering all the trauma and hardships he had faced. At home, he had constant clashes with his father. He wanted to work while his father feared that he would get hurt. "But I got my way," said Abdul Karim with a devilish smile of satisfaction.

Both praise their Royal Highnesses Prince Ra'd and Princess Maja, the presidents of the society, for the tremendous amount of help that they gave the newly married couple. The expenses of the wedding ceremony, which took place at the

institute, were paid by the society. The stubborn and persistent young man finally found a job in a bakery for a salary of JD per month. His colleagues used to

constantly tease him about his disability, and treat him in a demeaning manner. He eventually left that job and worked ever since as a telephone operator at a health centre in Jahal Al Nasser. "They treat me there as their equal and with the epitome of politeness. I do not get the feeling of being some sort of alien anymore."

Even though he had his bicycle, Abdul Karim could not go everywhere on it. He sometimes needed public transportation which proved to be a great disappointment. With an incomprehensible shake of his head, he remembers how he was not allowed to go into the "Service" (sharing taxi) because of his chair. The drivers complained that there was no room for it, and they were unwilling to listen to him when he told them that it was collapsible. "Whenever they saw me waving to them to stop, they would speed up and pass me by," he said.

After a lot of hard work, Abdul Karim saved up JD 400 and decided to buy a car made especially for the disabled. With the help of his relatives and various organisations, he bought the car for JD 600.

"My life changed completely after that. No longer was the notion of going to buy bread a nightmare, I was able to move about like everyone else, and the days of being snubbed by bus and taxi drivers were over for me!"

During social visits to his friends at Al Hussein Society he met Asia, now his wife.

Both praise their Royal Highnesses Prince Ra'd and Princess Maja, the presidents of the society, for the tremendous amount of help that they gave the newly married couple. The expenses of the wedding ceremony, which took place at the

institute, were paid by the society. The stubborn and persistent young man finally found a job in a bakery for a salary of JD per month. His colleagues used to

make life more unbearable."

Following this event was the birth of their son, Ra'd. He was delivered by Caesarean section. But other than that, everything was normal. During this interview with the proud parents, the hyper infant, who is now nearly two years of age, would not stop running around the demanding to be lifted off his father's lap. It is quite obvious that Ra'd is "the apple of his parent's eyes," as the saying goes!

The couple live in a small two-bedroom apartment in Marka. "We have all that we need. Our place is not very big and luxurious, but it is enough for us, and we are happy," said Asia.

With their marriage and newborn son, Abdul Karim's salary of JD 80 was not enough. An amount of JD 45 was spent on gas for the car, and what remained was not enough for them to live on. Both came up with the idea of opening a small shop in their home. Unfortunately, permission for this venture was not granted. So they thought of opening a butcher's shop, but this was going to cost them even more money. Asia sold her jewellery, and they got a loan for paying the necessary installments for the place.

The butchery has not lived up to their expectations in terms of the profit that it makes, but they are satisfied with it.

Presently, Asia is channelling all of her energy into keeping up with her very active son. Later on, she thinks that she will have to continue working, but for now she is dedicating herself to being a wife, mother, and taking care of their home. She said: "Every housewife has problems, and I am no exception. When faced with these difficulties, I either solve them myself or ask my nephew for help — he lives next door. It has not been easy for us. We are trying to survive, and

make life more bearable."

Abu Arrabi said that so far nearly 20 per cent of pasture lands have been swallowed up by buildings and factories.

Abu Arrabi proposed sowing large areas of land with seeds to increase the vegetation, planting shrubs and

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جordan Times جريدة عربية مطبوعة بالإنجليزية متاحة تصدر باللغة العربية

Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Pilgrimage and politics don't mix

Saudi Arabia's expression of hope that Iran will send pilgrims to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina for this year's pilgrimage comes as another clear sign of the Kingdom's desire for normalised relations with Tehran after an eventful period of strain and tension. It may be premature to assess Iran's response to the call or Tehran's plans for the pilgrimage, which the revolutionary regime of ayatollahs has always sought to exploit for political purposes; but there is little doubt that the Islamic World would be more than glad to see the Iranian faithful perform the pilgrimage without any hindrance as any other Muslim from any other part of the globe. The question that hangs on the horizon is whether Tehran is ready to acknowledge and abide by the accepted norms of behaviour in the House of God or whether the fanatical zealots in power in Iran would continue to insist on their own conditions — no limitation on the number of pilgrims and the freedom to stage politically-inspired rallies in the holy cities etc. etc. etc.

If recent events — including Iran's decree of death against author Salman Rushdie — are any indication, then one can surely expect Iran's leadership to hang onto its stubborn stand. It is baffling that the Iranian clergymen, devout Muslims as they claim to be, can see any sense in their arguments, simply because there cannot be a compromise between faith in God and political ambitions.

Needless to say, Iran has little respect for the endorsement by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) of the quotas of pilgrims that Saudi Arabia has allocated to every Islamic country. The Iranian defiance of the OIC decision points but to one thing: that Tehran is arguing that the entire Islamic World has "ganged up" against Iran. Perhaps, in one sense, the contention is partially true — the faithful are indeed "ganged up" against extremism and fanaticism which have no place in Islam, or any other religion for that matter.

By the same token, and notwithstanding of the religious aspects of the Salman Rushdie affair, the international community has realised that the death decree on the author could also be part of Iranian revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Khomeini's extremist quest to assume a position as the "undisputed leader and guardian of the Islamic faith" at any price and through any means. That in itself is a major obstacle in the path towards normalised Saudi-Iranian relations.

Seen in this light, it is indeed a magnanimous gesture and favour that Saudi Arabia is doing for Tehran by reaffirming its invitation to Iranian pilgrims. If Tehran chooses to spurn it, then it has only itself to blame for depriving the Iranian people of the opportunity to fulfil one of the five basic tenets of Islam. One wonders what is the prescribed punishment in Khomeini's books for such a crime.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai's daily newspaper on Monday welcomed back King Hussein from his trip to France and the United States where he discussed the Middle East among other issues of concern to the Arab Nation. The paper said that the Jordanian family feels at peace now with the King at the helm following a number of days marked with tension and unusual events and incidences. But it must be said that such regrettable events can by no means shake the Jordanian family's strong belief in its leadership and the nation; and the King is here to bolster this feeling and to breathe further hope into the hearts of the Jordanian citizens, the paper said. The Jordanian family realises that the government's economic measures could never be a form of punishment but a way of handling the difficult situation, and a move to adapt to the new economic realities, the paper noted. It said under King Hussein the Jordanian family would rely more on itself and its members and its potential and resources to forge ahead with a greater faith and stronger optimism towards development and progress.

A columnist in Al Rai's daily tackles the question of Arab summit meetings and their usefulness to confront the immense challenges posed to the Arab Nation. Mahmoud Al Rimawi asks how many summits should be held to deal with the questions that confront the Arabs, and whether the summit by themselves are sufficient to end problems and enable the Arabs to have a brighter future. One would expect from the Arab leaders not to suffice themselves with the meetings, but to follow up their talks and back their words with deeds. Rimawi notes. He believes that to date the Arab summits proved incapable of handling issues of higher national interest largely because they lack the machinery for the implementation of resolutions. The formation of committees and sub committees, the writer says and recommending resolutions to the Arab League are not sufficient for the execution of steps deemed important for the Arabs and their future. What the Arabs should do, the writer notes, is to find the proper machinery for implementing their resolutions since their meetings are of paramount importance and on these resolutions depends the future of their nation.

Al Dustour daily commented on the strong ties between Iraq and Jordan and said President Saddam's visit to Jordan was part of the Iraqi leadership's keenness on maintaining strong consultations with Jordan. The president was briefed on the King's talks in Washington and was assured about the situation in the Kingdom which has devoted itself to defending the Arab homeland and which stands as a strong fortress in the face of all challenges and threats posed to the nation, the paper said. The King for his part has reiterated Jordan's strong adherence to the principles and goals of the Great Arab Revolt and its determination to remain a strong fortress defending the Arab World, the paper noted. Under King Hussein, the Jordanian family will continue to reflect solidarity on the domestic and the pan-Arab levels, and through unity of ranks, it will continue the march towards further progress and development, the paper said.

Plodding towards 100-day mark, Bush says he's doing fine

By Michael Gelb
Reuter

WASHINGTON — George Bush, nearing the 100-day mark of his presidency, seems to be tailoring his administration according to the folk saying "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

"We're not looking for wrenching change," said one White House aide privately. "The American people elected George Bush because they liked the direction America was going."

White House officials say that with unemployment at a 15-year low and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev seemingly intent on reducing international tension to concentrate on reform at home there is no reason for Bush to rock the boat.

"Most administrations have had to wrestle with threats to peace or the economy or both," said White House communications director David Demarest.

"Right now, we're less in a period of threat than of opportunity on the international side. And the economy is nearing seven straight years of growth."

Compared with other recent U.S. presidents, who have swept into office with a barrage of initiatives designed to let the world know they have arrived, Bush has entered plodding in the footsteps of Ronald Reagan, who retired last January after eight years at the helm.

Lyndon Johnson declared a "war on poverty" and John Kennedy boldly announced that "the

torch has been passed to a new generation." Bush has spoken of limited resources and the need to allocate them differently.

"Our funds are low," Bush said in his inaugural address. "We will make the hard choices... based on honest need and prudent safety."

Bush says the 100-day standard, inspired by the first three months of Franklin Roosevelt's

presidency when Congress approved major new programmes almost daily in response to the great depression, is inappropriate because he took office after eight years of peace and prosperity.

He was also vice president to one of the most popular U.S. leaders in history.

"We didn't come in here throwing the rascals out to try to do something — correct all the

ills of the world in 100 days," the 64-year-old Bush told reporters on Thursday as he reflected on his first three months in office.

White House officials say the relative calm has given Bush a unique chance to step back for a long-term look.

"What you're seeing is the willingness to take the time to make sure what is done is the right thing to do to solve the problem, rather than something that looks good in the short term," said White House chief of staff John Sununu.

Bush's critics say his style shows uncertainty. To some, his insistence on lengthy policy reviews before laying out his views on foreign matters suggests a lack of imagination that will hamper his efforts to respond to Gor-

bachev's shake-up of the Soviet system and reform movements in Eastern Europe.

Critics also cite a lack of specific accomplishments and substance.

A New York Times/CBS News poll suggests voters are in two minds about Bush with 61 per cent approving of his performance but only 28 per cent saying he is working hard to solve the problems that concern them most.

Bush and his advisers say the critics — looking for the sort of razzle-dazzle that grabs headlines — have ignored a number of initiatives that promise long-term results.

They cite his proposal to shore up the country's troubled savings and loan industry, an outline for easing the debt-burden of Third World countries, and compromises with Congress that produced bipartisan deals on a budget and on U.S. aid for Nicaragua's contra rebels.

Even Bush's political foes say he deserves credit for a mood of well-being that, for now, has replaced the acrimony that marked relations between Congress and the White House for more than two decades.

"Cooperation is more important for the function of this government than sending up a lot of quick bills to Congress and announcing a lot of initiatives," said House of Representatives Democratic leader Thomas Foley.



Events in Georgia show limits of media glasnost

By Peter Conradi
Reuter

MOSCOW — Four years after Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev launched his policy of glasnost or openness, its limits have been exposed by the response of Soviet authorities and media to the recent bloody events in Georgia.

Only in the last few days has a full picture begun to emerge in the Soviet press of how troops used shovels and poison gas to crush a nationalist demonstration in the capital, Tbilisi, on April 9, which claimed 20 lives.

It took authorities until Sunday, two weeks after the events, to lift a ban on visits by foreign journalists to the city — and then just to allow a small group of reporters on an official Soviet foreign ministry trip.

"Not a single central newspaper or television report has given the true picture of events," Lana Gogoberidze, a Georgian film director, told journalists on Fri-

day at a packed Moscow showing of a clandestine video film of the events.

This approach, already employed last year during ethnic clashes over the Azerbaijani territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, is typical of the treatment of unrest and discontent within the Soviet Union by virtually all the country's official media.

While the main television news Vremya is filled with images of violence and death from across the world, Soviet trouble spots are not shown or, as in Georgia's case, the viewer sees people walking peacefully in city streets and factories working normally.

It appears at odds with the policy of glasnost proclaimed by Gorbachev within weeks of taking over the Soviet leadership in March 1985 after decades of secrecy in official reports and newspapers.

"Why are they showing us pictures of the West Bank, why don't they tell us about Tbilisi?"

The official Soviet news agency TASS waited 12 hours before giving its version of events, reprinted the following day in the Communist Party daily Pravda.

But even then, the TASS account appeared at odds with those obtained by Western reporters from local residents and with a detailed and apparently more objective version that was to appear in the outspoken weekly Moscow News 10 days later.

TASS said: "Regiments and units of interior ministry troops and soldiers strictly observed instructions about non-use of arms and caution, especially towards women and teenagers."

"But separate extremist groups armed with stones, sticks and metallic objects resisted furiously. Their actions caused a crush in the crowd as a result of which 16 people died."

With few exceptions, accounts in other Soviet newspapers generally echoed this TASS version. A Georgian youth newspaper which gave a fuller report with pictures

from the scene was stopped at the printers by local authorities.

Last Wednesday, a different version of events finally appeared in Moscow News and its assertions were backed by the chandeleur video film, shown to around 600 journalists.

The Moscow News account was based in part on the testimony of a photographer from the weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta, apparently the only professional press photographer to record the events. His own newspaper did not print it.

The video film showed troops backed by armoured vehicles, rushing a peaceful candlelight gathering, isolating and trapping small groups and pounding people — many of whom were women, repeatedly over the heads and bodies with clubs.

Bodies piled up in a mortuary had gaping wounds that could only have been inflicted by a blade, an apparent confirmation of reports that troops had used sharpened shovels against them.

The film also showed gas canisters being fired over the crowd and local doctors who said the victims were suffering from the effects of a poisonous gas which causes extreme irritation, pain and paralysis.

Georgian health ministry officials have confirmed that poison gas was used by troops against the demonstrators and local journalists have said at least two of those at the meeting have died of it.

Yet the central Soviet press was slow to pick up the charges and Moscow News said remarks by Georgian Health Minister Irakly Menagarishvili in an interview with Vremya on the use of poison gas and shovels were cut out of the broadcast in Moscow.

Both the area military commander, Igor Rodionov, and the commander of the interior ministry troops, Y. Efimov, denied the use of poison gas. Their comments were reported, unchallenged, in an interview with the army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda.

Sri Lankan hopes dented as election euphoria fades

By Malcolm Davidson
Reuter

COLOMBO — Ranasinghe Premadasa swept to power as Sri Lanka's president on a surge of public optimism that he could bring peace to the violence-torn island.

Four months later, the death toll from attacks by Tamil separatists and Sinhalese rebels is still climbing and the wave of national euphoria seems to have fizzled out. More than 12,000 people have been killed in the past six years in the two rebellions.

"There was a feeling of hope after the presidential election in December. Some of it was orchestrated by the government but there was a real explosion of relief," a Western diplomat said. "I would say that the level of hope is still higher than it was before the election but the euphoria has gone."

Although Premadasa took over only in January and his United National Party had to fight parliamentary polls in February, he has made little progress on his major objectives.

There is no sign that the bulk of the 45,000 Indian troops deployed against Tamil separatists in the north and east of the island are going to leave soon.

A much trumpeted programme to ease poverty has yet to get off the ground and faces funding problems, say economists.

And leftist insurgents fighting in southern Sinhalese areas seem determined to press on with their fight to topple the government.

"Having come in with a lot of popular goodwill and hope, he has not delivered... The longer things go on the more impatient the public and his enemies will become," a European diplomat said.

The bright spot for the government is the surprise agreement of the previously intransigent Tamil Tigers guerrillas to talk directly with Colombo for the first time in four years.

The Tigers, members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), are seeking their London-based theoretician Anton Balasingham to Colombo this week to open talks.

However, sceptics point to the LTTE's repudiation of a 1987 agreement giving Tamil-majority areas substantial autonomy.

They refused to hand over their weapons to Indian troops sent to police the accord and have since been battling both the Indians and other Tamil groups which accepted the accord.

"I am quite dubious that they (the talks) will amount to anything. The LTTE has been adamant for so long that I see no reason why they should change that," the diplomat said.

"There was a feeling of hope after the presidential election in December. Some of it was orchestrated by the government but there was a real explosion of relief," a Western diplomat said. "I would say that the level of hope is still higher than it was before the election but the euphoria has gone."

Although Premadasa took over only in January and his United National Party had to fight parliamentary polls in February, he has made little progress on his major objectives.

There is no sign that the bulk of the 45,000 Indian troops deployed against Tamil separatists in the north and east of the island are going to leave soon.

A much trumpeted programme to ease poverty has yet to get off the ground and faces funding problems, say economists.

And leftist insurgents fighting in southern Sinhalese areas seem determined to press on with their fight to topple the government.

"Having come in with a lot of popular goodwill and hope, he has not delivered... The longer things go on the more impatient the public and his enemies will become," a European diplomat said.

The bright spot for the government is the surprise agreement of the previously intransigent Tamil Tigers guerrillas to talk directly with Colombo for the first time in four years.

The Tigers, members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), are seeking their London-based theoretician Anton Balasingham to Colombo this week to open talks.

The bright spot for the government is the surprise agreement of the previously intransigent Tamil Tigers guerrillas to talk directly with Colombo for the first time in four years.

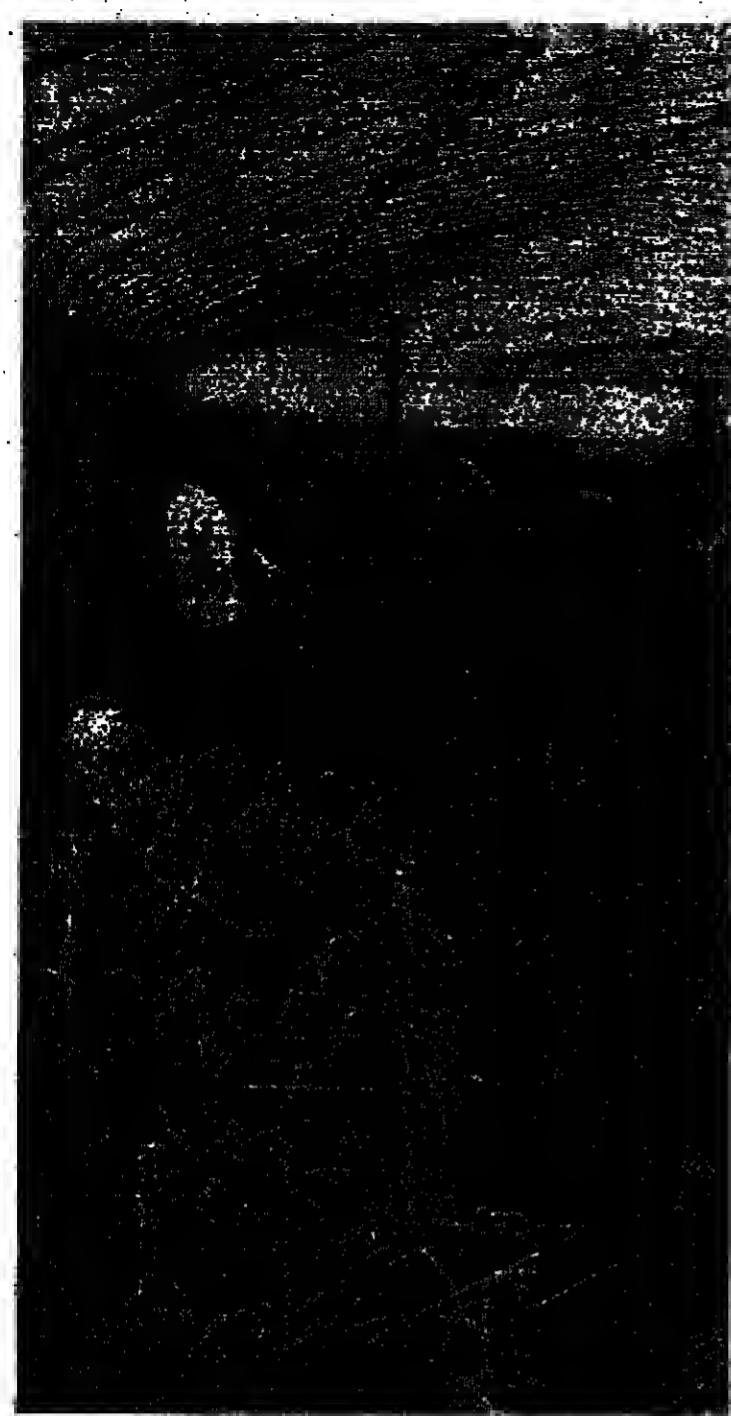
The Tigers, members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), are seeking their London-based theoretician Anton Balasingham to Colombo this week to open talks.

known by its Sinhala initials JVP, is waging a campaign of murder and intimidation that has killed 2,000 people in the past 18 months.

A 1983 ban on the organisation was lifted last year, but the JVP has so far spurned government efforts to open peace talks.

Political analysts say Premadasa has set great store by his poverty alleviation programme intended to eventually cover six million people.

It was to have been launched earlier this month, but a senior central bank source, said the whole thing was being reassessed to make sure scarce resources go



Workers examine hybrid rice in a research centre in Changsha, the capital city of Hunan Province.



Although rich in flora and fauna as well as mineral resources which are now grown on former barren land, China's cultivated land area continues to drop.



China's shrinking cropland and failing water supplies

By Ni Shaohang

NANJING — Helter-skelter urbanisation, the proliferation of small-scale rural cottage industries, and economic reforms have led to China's total cultivated land area dropping by around 15 million hectares since 1957. Cultivated land continues to shrink, on average, by some 520,000 hectares a year, a manifestation of the demands that rapid population growth has made on China's resources.

Presently, the amount of cultivated land per head is a mere 0.13 hectares, half of what it was in 1949. In nine provinces the cultivated land area is less than 0.07 hectares per person, below what is necessary for self-sustaining

agriculture.

The growth of towns and cities, along with 'rural industries' have combined to accelerate China's loss of agricultural land. Currently there are some 1.6 million rural or 'township enterprises' employing around 70 million workers. Furthermore, China's 407 cities and 11,103 towns are expected to grow faster than rural regions.

Another factor that works against Chinese agriculture is the great increase in rural housing units. Between 1985 and 1986 an additional 1.7 billion square metres of rural housing were built.

The most serious loss of cropland, however, is taking place in coastal areas. As in other Asian

countries, China's coastal population is burgeoning. In general the coasts have higher population densities and lower amount of cultivated land per person than other parts of the country.

China's increasing population has also put a strain on water resources. In the first place there are only 2,700 cubic metres of fresh water available per person, one quarter of the world's average. As a result water shortages have become commonplace in some areas. According to a 1985 survey, 183 cities (out of 324) were found to be in water deficit, with 40 cities put on the critical list. The water shortfall for these cities amounts to around 20 million cubic metres per day. It has been estimated that in

the dry north-west region of China some 40 million people, along with 30 million domestic animals, suffer from a shortage of potable water. About 93 million hectares of rangeland in northern China lack adequate rainfall. As a result, increasing amounts of groundwater are being pumped to the surface for use in agriculture and industry, a practice that is depleting China's groundwater aquifers. In several regions of northern China, the groundwater level is falling at the rate of 4.5 metres a year, creating surface subsidence in cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Xi'an.

A number of ambitious programmes has been launched to deal with the country's extensive resource degradation. First, more attention is being paid to the important links between population, resources and the environment. Government officials are beginning to see the necessity of balancing economic development with resource conservation and environmental management.

Second, family planning services have been given more muscle so that an attempt can be made to adhere to the target of a population of 1.2 billion by 2000.

Third, laws and regulations governing the conservation and management of China's resources have been strengthened and put into effect. A new law on 'Land Resources Management' has managed to reduce the amount of agricultural land taken out of production. Agricultural chemicals are also being regulated.

The management of environmental activities has been reorganised: For example, the Bureau of Territory was set up in 1981. Its main task is to develop, exploit in a sustainable manner, and protect, the country's resources.

Lastly, the management of resources in key regions, such as the Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan region, the Shanghai-Hangzhou-Nanjing region, the Pearl River Delta Region, and several with fragile ecological environments like the Loess Plateau, have been given priority. Planning on a regional level is now possible. — People News.

Safe motherhood in Africa

By Elif Liseberg

NIAMEY — Health workers, representatives of women's organisations and policy-makers from 22 French-speaking African countries, meeting in Niamey, the capital city of Niger, have called on the international community to help governments to halve the appalling toll of 150,000 women who die in Africa each year from complications of pregnancy and delivery.

In northern Europe 10 women die out of every 100,000 who give birth, whereas in Africa the figure is about 700 out of every 100,000, giving Africa the sad record of the highest maternal death rate in the world. And for every woman who dies, many more remain permanently handicapped.

After three days of technical discussions, representatives to the Conference on Safe Motherhood, held in late January, were joined by the Ministers of Health, and by delegates from the World Bank, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), who jointly sponsored the conference, from other U.N. agencies and from non-govern-

ment organisations such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

Alarming data were presented at Niamey, but it was one particular story which brought home the fact that maternal mortality in Africa is really "the shame of modern times," as expressed by one of the delegates. A video produced by WHO follows a woman on her road to death, where many opportunities for saving her life are missed.

Like so many African women, Mrs X was severely anaemic due to parasitic infections and malnutrition. She had been through seven pregnancies and did not want another child. She lived in a small village and was poor and illiterate. She and her husband had never practised family planning — and inevitably she had become pregnant again.

When the birth began, an old neighbour was called in to assist. She did not understand the danger when Mrs X started bleeding profusely. Only after an hour, when Mrs. X had become very feeble, did she arrange to send her to the district hospital, with

the help of willing neighbours. The ox cart, jolting along on a dirt road, took two hours, and on arrival Mrs. X was unconscious. She went immediately for an emergency operation, and needed blood, but the half a litre in the hospital refrigerator was not enough to save her life.

The midwives and doctors attending the conference had, most likely, all witnessed similar tragedies. "Why," asked one of them, "is it only now that this scandal of the century is brought to light?" There were two reasons: first, only recently had studies undertaken by WHO and others shown the true extent of the problem. Second, according to a physician, pregnancy-related deaths had for long been considered part of the normal state of affairs in Africa. When he had worked in Europe, he said, "every single case of maternal death would be discussed for hours, and sometimes for days, in order to find out what had gone wrong, and to put matters right to avoid similar dramas in the future."

"The real reason," said a woman doctor, "is that we African women need to assert ourselves as women, rather than only as wives and mothers."

The status of African women as reflected in, for example, their access to education, was an important factor. And, according to Edward Jaycox, Vice-President of the World Bank, the African mother produces 80 per cent of the food eaten, but her own nutritional needs are often not

met. Some traditional practices were also described as dangerous to health, such as food taboos and female circumcision.

In spite of great efforts over the last 10 years to provide primary health care in Africa, maternal health services are sorely lacking. Only 36 per cent of deliveries are assisted by a trained health worker. Essential health care, including mother and child health care and family planning, is needed at village level. That has to be backed up by small maternity units and hospitals that can take care of complications and deal with high-risk cases. As a minimum requirement they should be able to deal with delayed and obstructed labour, including Caesarean section, and give anaesthetics and blood transfusions.

A number of projects in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and elsewhere have shown that great improvements can be attained if local communities are mobilised, health care workers retrained, and a minimum of resources made available. The World Bank has estimated that the investment of \$1 per head in health care would reduce maternal mortality by 20 per cent, and \$2 by two-thirds.

The declaration issued at the end of the conference appealed for efforts to cut maternal mortality and morbidity by half by the year 2000. "Is that a realistic aim?" asked Dr. Abdelloumene of WHO. "Technically," he went on, "it is certainly possible, as shown in Costa Rica, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Cuba, Egypt and, in particular, China." As to the political feasibility, it was up to each country to give the answer. Was it possible from a financial point of view? With many African countries presently facing an economic crisis, he said, considerable external funding would be necessary.

Will the international community wake up to its responsibility and show its solidarity with Africa for the future? — People News.

ca and its women by producing the resources? And will African society at large, its health workers and in particular its women, rise to the task of ensuring safe motherhood? Judging from the emotional energy, the frank talk and enlightened thinking at the conference, there is great hope for the future — People News.

India — a land of contrasts

By Diana Dixon

INDIA is a land of contrasts: incredible beauty and urban squalor; one of the fifteen most industrialised nations in the world and the fifteenth poorest; in some years the hottest place on earth — the Thar desert in Rajasthan, and the wettest — Assam. India, the birthplace of Buddhism and Hinduism; the country with twenty official languages.

In the 41 years since India became independent, enormous progress has been made; foreign trade has greatly expanded and significant increases have been made in the production of steel, power, cement, oil, fertiliser and other resources.

India is one of the few countries in the developing world that produces enough food for its needs and which can call on its own food reserves in emergencies. While proud of its efforts to become self-sufficient, it has welcomed outside assistance for development projects in order to banish the spectre of poverty from its streets and countryside. Three hundred million people do not earn enough money to buy sufficient food for themselves and their families — millions are homeless, with no access to safe drinking water or an education.

WFP and India signed their first project agreement in 1963 — the same year the Programme was formed — and have progressed together. In the last 25 years WFP has supported Indian projects for livestock and fisheries development, forestry, irrigation, watershed management, rural development, and resettlement; school feeding; assistance to women and children; and disaster

taken China to become the most populous country in the world.

To provide the minimum requirements — jobs, food, housing — for this number of people is a daunting task that will need the continuing help of organisations such as WFP for many years to come.



CONCORD
Cinema Tel: 677420
THE BOSS WIFE
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

OPERA
Cinema Tel: 675573
BOB GOLD THWAIT IN BURGLAR
Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

PLAZA
Cinema Tel: 677420
HART TAKE TO HOWAY
Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Gulf Arab officials to discuss common oil policy tomorrow

ABU DHABI (R) — Gulf Arab oil producers will meet in Jeddah Wednesday to seek a common policy on prices and production ahead of OPEC's key June meeting, oil industry sources said.

"The (Gulf oil) ministers' tasking of the oil market situation will be of extreme importance in determining the basic trends to be discussed at OPEC's next June meeting," the official United Arab Emirates (UAE) news agency WAM said Monday.

The Jeddah meeting will bring together six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — OPEC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar and non-OPEC Oman and Bahrain — which between them hold over 40 per cent of the world's oil reserves.

"The committee will discuss GCC proposals on efforts to be taken collectively to achieve stability in oil prices in the world market and to unify the stands of GCC members in OPEC," the Qatari News Agency said Sunday.

Oil industry analysts in the Gulf said the six GCC states

prices down as supply to the market will rise.

Kuwait and the UAE's requests for higher individual OPEC quotas. Both countries regard their current 1.037 million and 988,000 b/d quotas as inadequate relative to their reserves and output capacities.

Ways of convincing Iran to support an increase in the OPEC ceiling, Tehran wants high prices with limited OPEC output to earn hard cash for its post Gulf war reconstruction.

How to distribute any increase agreed in the OPEC ceiling.

Kuwait and the UAE produced above their quotas in March at 1.35 million b/d and 1.4 million b/d respectively, according to a Reuters survey.

Iran's Tehran Times newspaper said earlier this month that quota violators within OPEC should not be awarded higher ceilings.

Unstable prices

Meanwhile, the manager of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) predicted in a

report released Sunday that oil prices will remain unstable for several years but will not collapse as they did in 1986.

"As I look to the future, I see several more years of weak and volatile prices," Suhail Paris Al Mazouri said in the report marking the 17th anniversary of ADNOC's foundation.

But Mazouri, who is also secretary general of Abu Dhabi's Supreme Oil Council, said he did not expect that prices would tumble below \$10 a barrel as they did in 1986 due to OPEC overproduction.

"I am encouraged by the fact that world oil consumption is starting to increase again at rates we haven't seen in a decade," he said, but gave no figures.

"At present prices, other forms of energy are having difficulty competing," Mazouri said.

"So, although in the short term I believe the price situation will remain uncomfortable, I see it in positive terms as a means of guaranteeing our long-term survival," he concluded.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Top Abu Dhabi bank comes out of red

ABU DHABI (R) — Abu Dhabi's major bank, the National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD), rebounded into profit last year after heavy losses in 1987 due to large provisions against bad loans. An NBAD spokesman said it made net profits of \$6.6 million dirhams (\$23.5 million) in 1988 after losses of \$141 million (\$38.4 million) the previous year. "We expect that provisioning requirements will be considerably lower in future years," the spokesman quoted NBAD Chairman Mohammad Harboush Al Suweidi as saying. In the past few years, the bank had built up a fund against bad loans of over one billion dirhams (\$272 million), he said. Provisions for bad loans fell to \$98.7 million dirhams (\$26.9 million) in 1988 from \$233.8 million (\$63.7 million) in 1987. Assets in calendar 1988 rose to 24.6 billion dirhams (\$6.7 billion) from 19.9 billion (\$5.4 billion) in 1987.

UAE telecom firm puts in record gain

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) telecommunications firm Etisalat, the biggest quoted UAE company, reported record 1988 profits despite a series of rate cuts over the year. The firm said net profit rose 28 per cent over 1987 to \$69.9 million dirhams (\$181 million). It said it proposed raising total dividends almost 14 per cent to \$59.6 million dirhams (\$161.5 million). Stock of Etisalat, which was privatised six years ago and is capitalised at \$404 million, was being quoted at 545 dirhams (\$148.50) through the UAE's telephone-traded market. So far, only UAE nationals can buy shares.

Tunisia announces new oil find

TUNIS (R) — A Kuwait company has struck oil in a previously unproductive part of Tunisia, the national economy ministry has announced. A test well sunk in the Kairouan north concession by the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) has been producing about 400 tonnes of good quality crude a day since April 2, the ministry said in a statement. The onshore well, named Sidi Kilani-1, is in the province of Mahdia near the village of Sowassi, about 160 kilometres south of the capital Tunis, said the statement carried by the official news agency TAP. "Although the preliminary results are considered encouraging, it is however premature to speculate on the size and the commercial viability of this discovery," it added. Tunisia produced five million tonnes of crude in 1987, equivalent to about 100,000 barrels a day. Production has been declining throughout the 1980s and planners expect the country to become a net oil importer around 1993.

Mubarak urges Egyptians to work hard

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak urged Egyptians Monday to derive inspiration from the liberation of the Sinai Peninsula for hard work to overcome economic woes. "We are capable of challenging all difficulties facing Egypt," Mubarak said in a televised speech marking the seventh anniversary of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai. Raising the flags over the liberated lands must persuade us to exert maximum effort to overcome all economic problems," he said. Egypt is burdened by a \$43 billion foreign debt and has so far failed to reach a new pact on economic reforms with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to allow it to enter fresh debt rescheduling talks with creditors. The anniversary of the return of Sinai to Egypt should be regarded as a "renewal of confidence in ourselves to help rebuild the country and protect its stability," Mubarak said.

Kuwait recruits foreign power experts

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait is gathering a group of prominent European power experts seeking to rectify a fault in the electricity network that has caused two major blackouts in four months. Electricity and Water Minister Hmoud Al Rgubah was quoted as saying Monday. Al Rgubah told the Kuwaiti daily Al Watan that engineers from Britain, France, and West Germany will arrive in Kuwait next week "to study the performance of the power network and propose solutions for averting the repetition of technical faults." The cabinet Sunday approved the recruitment of foreign experts and issued strict instructions to the ministry's personnel to avoid cutoff in the electric current. After the last power failure on April 13, the Kuwaiti Crown Prince warned that all those responsible for the power collapse should be punished.

1.5m Bangladeshis demand higher wages

DHAKA (AP) — Buses stayed off the streets and factories closed in Dhaka Monday as 1.5 million workers across the country began a day-long strike for higher wages, news reports said. United News of Bangladesh said employees of the public transport system did not show up for work and many car-owners stayed off the roads for fear of violence. The workers are demanding that their monthly wages be increased from \$80 taka (\$25) to 1,400 taka (\$44). They also are seeking a cost-of-living increase equal to 60 per cent of their salaries and have rejected a government offer for 10 per cent that was scheduled to begin in July. Nirmal Sen, a spokesman for the unions, said the strike covered factory, transportation and shop workers.

Iranian exports decline by 11 per cent

NICOSIA (R) — Iran exported non-oil goods worth \$971 million in the last Iranian year ending March 20, 11 per cent less than the previous year, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Monday. It said hand-woven woolen carpets, pistachio nuts, hides and copper bars comprised two-thirds of the exports. Other major items included dried fruits, minerals, fish, shrimps and textiles. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, gave no reason for the decline but Iranian businessmen say the firming of the rial in the open market following last August's ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war made exports less profitable. Tehran has not given an official figure for its oil revenue in the last Iranian year, projected at about \$10 billion. Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said last month that higher crude prices had increased Iran's revenue by \$1.5 billion in the first quarter of 1989.

ATT earnings rise

20.6 per cent

NEW YORK (R) — American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (ATT), enjoying a boom in the long-distance telephone market, has said its first quarter profits jumped to \$594 million from \$492 million a year earlier.

Revenues rose to \$8.66 billion from \$8.39 billion, buoyed by robust long-distance and product sales.

ATT's good news was not surprising. Analysts had expected earnings growth of 15 to 20 per cent. In addition, rival MCI Communications Corp. has said its first quarter profits were up 132 per cent, to \$135 million from \$58 million.

"These results show continued progress," ATT Chairman Robert Allen told shareholders at company's 104th annual meeting. "We're seeing new vigour in our long-distance business and strong growth in international sales of products and services."

Allen added he would not be surprised if 21 per cent profit growth continued throughout 1989.

"This is not an aberration, at least based on our business plan," he told reporters. "The pace of earnings growth we have seen in the first quarter of the year was expected."

ATT's long-distance operations are being fuelled by aggressive advertising and sales promotions, an expanded sales force and increased regulatory flexibility, the company said in a statement.

ATT's long-distance usage climbed five per cent in the first quarter.

Internationally, Allen said ATT was looking for a second supplier of personal computers. Intel Corp., which said recently it seeks to sell complete personal computers based on its popular microprocessors, is among the leading candidates, he said.

ATT currently sells personal computers made by Olivetti and Co., the Italian office systems company in which it has a 21 per cent stake.

The company's relations with Olivetti, strained recently, remain unchanged, Allen said, adding that finding a second supplier would "only be good business."

Franco-Lebanese bank runs into difficulties

PARIS (R) — The Bank of France said Monday it had appointed a temporary administrator for the United Banking Corporation, a French-registered bank owned mainly by Lebanese-based interests.

The initial losses were identified about two weeks ago at around 35 million francs (\$5.5 million); but could be double that amount, he added.

United is the fourth bank connected with Middle Eastern interests to run into difficulties in recent months.

In October, 1988, the Bank of France intervened when Al Saeed Banque was unable to meet commitments, requiring all Paris-based banks to contribute to a bailout fund.

The central bank in late February withdrew the banking licence of Banque de Participations et de Placements (BPP), run by Lebanese businessman Roger Tannaz, and the Lebanese central bank earlier stepped in to support Paris-based Al Mashreq Bank, which was connected with the BPP.

New arrests deepen Bordeaux wine scandal

AGEN, France (R) — France's new Bordeaux wine scandal deepened this week after police arrested directors of a big distributor of well-known vintages on suspicion of fraud.

Modern vineyards may often produce double the amount allowed and are obliged by law to turn their surplus into industrial alcohol, vinegar of grape juice at a huge loss compared with profits to be made on the sale of vintage wine.

The swindle, which one investigator called "marvellous in its simplicity," involved diverting controlled shipments of surplus wine to warehouses where it was bottle and corked.

It could then be labelled and capped Bordeaux, Saint-Emilion or whatever the client desired. "If they had been less greedy they could have kept the racket going for years," the investigator said. He estimated that several million bottles of falsely-labelled wine had reached tables in France and abroad.

The scandal is the second to hit Bordeaux wines this decade. Demand dropped after the last affair in 1984 but picked up last year thanks to a growing Japanese market.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, April 24, 1989		
Central Bank official rates		
Buy	Sell	French franc
538.0	542.0	85.8 86.5
1.382/35	1.391/35	Dutch guilder 257.5 260.4
2.092/30	2.102/30	Swedish crown 85.3 86.0
1.632/33	1.642/33	Italian lira (for 100) 8.6 8.8
38.81/84	39.01/84	Belgian francs 40.0 40.0
6.282/57	6.302/57	French francs 140.2 140.2
1360/1361	1370/1371	Italian lire 136.0 136.0
1.31.15/25	1.32.15/25	Japanese yen 223.89 230.92
6.307/20	6.317/20	Swedish crowns 1.247.24 1.247.24
6.730/50	6.740/50	Norwegian crowns 1.247.24 1.247.24
7.213/58	7.223/58	Danish crowns 1.247.24 1.247.24
One ounce of gold	383.95/384.25	U.S. dollars 1.247.24 1.247.24

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.		
One Sterling	1.7112/22	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1865/75	Canadian dollar
1.852/35	1.852/35	Deutschmarks
2.092/30	2.092/30	Dutch guilder
1.632/33	1.632/33	Swiss francs
38.81/84	38.81/84	Belgian francs
6.282/57	6.282/57	French francs
1360/1361	1360/1361	Italian lire
1.31.15/25	1.31.15/25	Japanese yen
6.307/20	6.307/20	Swedish crowns
6.730/50	6.730/50	Norwegian crowns
7.213/58	7.213/58	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	383.95/384.25	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The market was sharply higher at the close after news of a hostile raid on Goodman Fielder Wattie stock by Rank Hovis McDougall. The All Ordinaries index was up 23.3 at 1,475.9.

TOKYO — Prices ended lower in the slowest trade of 1989 on concerns over interest rates and the domestic political situation. The Nikkei was down 223.89 to 32,805.92.

HONG KONG — Blue chips closed a season day lower after thin trading. The Hang Seng index closed 13.24 lower at 3,095.99.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed marginally higher but off early gains in intermittent profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index rose 2.97 to 1,247.24.

BOMBAY — The exchange was closed to let brokers settle pending transactions for the two weeks ended last Friday. Trading resumes Tuesday.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed mixed to lower in quiet trading, with last week's Bundesbank rates rises still weighing on the market. The DAX index fell 7.83 to 1,368.38.

ZURICH — Prices closed generally easier on low turnover as higher Swiss interest rates dampened market sentiment. The all-share Swiss index fell 0.4 to 1,024.1.

PARIS — Shares were steady by midday but off their morning highs, with operators cautious following last week's Bundesbank rate rise.

LONDON — Stocks were mixed to slightly firmer in the afternoon in quiet business, with share turnover amongst the lowest so far this year. Dealers said concerns that key U.K. trade figures Wednesday could hurt sterling and trigger a rise in interest rates continue to weigh on the market. At 1452 GMT the FTSE 100 was up three at 2064.0.

NEW YORK — Selling resumed in mid-morning after a brief recovery followed early profit-taking. The Dow was down 10 at 2,399.

CAR FOR SALE

Sports

Baseball Roundup

ATLANTA (AP) — Dale Murphy had the second six-RBI game of his career, hitting a two-run homer in the third inning, a two-run single in the sixth and a two-run double in the eighth Sunday to lead Atlanta past San Diego 9-4.

Murphy has nine RBIs in the last three games — all against San Diego. He's boosted his batting average from .316 to .394, getting six hits in 13 at-bats over that span.

Murphy's previous six-RBI game was on July 12, 1978, against San Francisco.

Tom Glavine, 3-0, allowed eight hits in 6 2/3 innings, struck out four and walked two.

Atlanta scored three runs in the first off Dennis Rasmussen, 1-3. Gerald Perry hit a two-run homer, his third homer of the season, and Jeff Treadway hit a run-scoring single.

Pirates 6, Phillies 4

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Bobby Bonilla's two-run homer in the eighth inning capped Pittsburgh's rally from a four-run deficit and Logan Easley won his first game since April 20, 1987.

Philadelphia led 4-0 — all on unearned runs — before Pittsburgh scored three runs in the sixth and three in the eighth.

Singles by pinch-hitter John Cangelosi, Jose Lind and R.J. Reynolds in the sixth scored a run and chased starter Larry McWilliams.

Ricky Jordan misplayed Bonilla's grounder to first, allowing a second run to score and Barry Bonds followed with a run-scoring groundout.

Gary Redus singled off Mike Maddux to open the eighth, Jose Lind sacrificed and R.J.

Reynolds hit a game-tying double off Steve Bedrosian, 1-2, Bonilla, who hit 24 homers last year, followed with his first home run off the season.

Mike Schmidt hit a two-run homer in the first, the 547th of his career.

Expos 9, Cardinals 3

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Spike Owen had three hits and drove in three runs and Hubie Brooks homered as the Expos snapped a three-game losing streak.

Montreal, which had been held to four runs by St. Louis in the previous three games, had 15 hits off five Cardinals' pitchers, including four doubles and two triples. Tim Raines had three hits and scored two runs.

Brye Smith, 2-0, gave up five hits and struck out two in seven innings. Joe Hesketh finished the combined seven-hitter.

Cris Carpenter, 0-1, gave up three runs and six hits in 4 1/3 innings.

St. Louis shortstop Ozzie Smith, who has won nine straight gold gloves, committed his third error of the week.

Mets 4, Cubs 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Kevin McReynolds hit a two-run, go-ahead homer in the eighth inning as New York won despite Andre Dawson's 300th career home run.

It was the Cub's sixth loss in seven games and the Mets' fifth victory in their last seven. New York has come from behind in its last four victories and six of eight this season.

Calvin Schiraldi, 1-1, walked Tim Teufel leading off the eighth and McReynolds followed with his second homer of the season, giving the Mets a 3-2 lead.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Waltrip charges to victory

MARTINSVILLE, Virginia (AP) — Darrel Waltrip charged to his third victory of the season, fending off a late challenge by Dale Earnhardt in winning the Pennzoil sweatshirts 500 Sunday at Martinsville speedway. Waltrip, who opened the season with a dramatic victory in the Daytona 500 and won at Atlanta, led the final 52 laps of the 500-lap, 263-mile (423-kilometre) event on the .526-mile (.846-kilometre) Oval. Waltrip, 42, a three-time Winston Cup champion, has 76 career victories. Waltrip chose to pass up a pit stop when the rest of the leaders went in during the last of five caution periods. That put him in the lead in lap 314. The final 180 laps were run under the green flag and Earnhardt took the lead when Waltrip made his final pit stop on lap 418. Waltrip, who won only three races in the past two seasons, averaged a race record 79.025 MPH (127.174 KPH), breaking his mark of 78.025 (125.56) set in 1978. But he fell short of Dale Yarborough's 1978 track mark of 79.185 (127.432). The winner earned \$33,600.

Scogglin, Wyland win 10-metre platform

BOCA RATON, Florida (AP) — Matt Scogglin, the 1977 winner of this event, and Wendy Wyland, the 1984 Olympic bronze medalist, won the 10-metre platform titles in the U.S. Diving Championships Sunday. Scogglin broke away from the men's event after the fourth of 10 dives. He led Olympian Patrick Jeffrey by one point, going into the fifth dive, where each attempted an armstand cut-through reverse 1 1/2 somersaults free. Scogglin scored 70.20 points to Jeffrey's 63.96 and began the pullaway. He won with 616.77 points. Jeffrey finished second with 582.18 points. "All the hard work and training the last three months paid off," said the 25-year-old Scogglin, winner over the famed Greg Louganis in the nationals two years ago. "Usually when I train this hard, I injure myself. I stayed healthy and I'm in the best shape of my life," Scogglin said. "This assures me I have the capability." Wyland, 24, wearing a patch to protect a punctured ear drum injured in practice two weeks ago, held off defending champion Wendy Lian Williams to earn her first National title in five years.

Finance policeman replaces Nebiolo

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — Italy's Athletics Federation Fidal Sunday elected a lieutenant-colonel in the finance police to succeed former President Primo Nebiolo who resigned in January after a series of damaging scandals. Gianni Gola, 42, won more than 75 per cent of the votes at an extraordinary meeting in Florence and said his aim was to "avoid every possible centralisation of authority." Gola began his athletics career in 1961 as a shot putter. Two years later he switched to discuss and then the hammer, becoming Italian junior champion in the latter discipline. He gave up competitive athletics at the age of 19 to enter the finance police. Nebiolo, a Turin lawyer, quit Fidal after 20 years at the helm but remains President of the International Amateur Athletic Federation. Pressure on him to step down mounted a year ago after the Italian Olympic Committee found officials had rigged a long jump result at the 1987 Rome world championships which resulted in Italian Giovanni Evangelista wrongly being awarded the bronze medal.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

BEWARE OF GIFTS TO TROY!

Neither vulnerable, South deals:

NORTH
♦ 7
♦ 5 4 3
♦ 9 8 7 5 4 2
♦ 10 8

WEST ♦ 4 2 ♦ Q 9 8 6 5 3
♦ Q J 10 7 2 ♦ K 8
♦ K 6 ♦ 3
♦ K 9 5 ♦ J 7 4 3

SOUTH
♦ A K 10
♦ V A 9
♦ Q J 10
♦ A Q 6 2

The bidding: South West North East

1 ♦ 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦
Dbl Pass 3 0 Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦
We are not proud of South's bidding on this hand from a rubber bridge game at New York's renowned Cavendish Club. Fortunately, South had the skill and some help from the enemy to land his contract.

Since North could not bid over one heart, his jump in response to his partner's takeout double showed little more than length in the bid suit. Under the circumstances, South would have been wiser to select the minor-suit game. Indeed,

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:
What is reasonable is possible. Perfection is a dream that rarely appears in the real world. Change is in the wind when innovative ideas emerge.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Me first: take it or leave it! That attitude has gotten you into difficulties before. Use your talents for income-raising and business.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your ability to create is in focus. You are pampered by a devoted. Practice moderation and prepare for a couple of bumpy days ahead.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Intuition is clever, and it can be used for experimental projects. Avoid a fair weather friend who tries to involve you in his or her problems.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are faced with an important decision. Keep finances growing in order to have something to fall back on.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You are given additional responsibility that is also challenging. You could win greater freedom. Be diplomatic and soften your responses.

VENUS (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Use your initiative to start new ideas. A more unorthodox approach is needed. Bring more color into your wardrobe by looking shapier.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may have to give up something and

get nothing in return. Focus on local travel and keeping personal records up-to-date.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Look before you leap. You usually do, but this is a very active time with many options to look at. Establish a plan of action.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Work for a tighter, more closely knit family. Hunches and psychic inspiration work wonders. Spell out any agreements in detail.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are a self-starter. A financial deal must wait for it's maturity. Objectivity can cloud your appraisal of life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Affairs of the heart are on the top of the list. If strong messages are not getting through to someone, try a humorous approach.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can get flustered over small matters and worry yourself into a fury. You will be laughing about all of this after the stress passes.

If Your Child Is Born Today

He or she will be attracted to variety and change. Your child will not like to follow established norms; thus, he or she can be an experimenter and inventor by finding unique and original ideas for almost everything. Expect your son or daughter to be a high energy person.

THE Daily Crossword

By Victor Jambor, Jr.

ACROSS

1 Constantine

6 Skates —

10 Mature

14 Zoroastrian:

var.

15 Bouquet

18 Variable star

19 Tony Soprano

20 Transposed

22 Invalidate

24 Performer

of a kind

25 UFO being

26 Rich soil

30 Chickpeas

31 Snatch

33 Corroded

35 Refuse

36 Discreet

38 Ancient poet

40 Indian

41 Shaped like a bow

43 Black bird

45 Prizes

48 Short-fitting

50 Shirts

51 Small mesa

54 White poplar

55 Kind of gun

56 Bare trees

57 Inscrutable

58 Words of understanding

59 Seed cover

60 Asian Wrights

61 ——well

62 Grow well

63 Fasten

64 Words of understanding

65 Seed cover

66 Asian Wrights

67 ——well

68 Grow well

69 Extraneous

70 Warner Von Braun

71 Busy as —

72 Auction

73 Action

74 Made cloth

75 Dental at times

76 Lodge

77 Humble

78 "Uncle Mimi"

79 Fire

80 Free-fall

81 "Uncle Mimi"

82 Machine gun

83 "Uncle Mimi"

84 Age

1 Constantine

6 Skates —

10 Mature

14 Zoroastrian:

var.

15 Bouquet

18 Variable star

19 Tony Soprano

20 Transposed

22 Invalidate

24 Performer

of a kind

25 UFO being

26 Rich soil

30 Chickpeas

31 Snatch

33 Corroded

Stormy protests engulf Peking's universities

PEKING (R) — Stormy scenes erupted on Peking campuses Monday when striking students rallied to demand dialogue with communist leaders on democratic reforms.

As a protest campaign entered its second week one mass meeting collapsed in chaos with accusations that authorities were infiltrating the movement.

Calls for a nationwide classroom strike won widespread support at major colleges in Peking and few students attended classes. They appeared to have little impact elsewhere in the country.

In two provincial capitals, Xian and Changsha, tension was still running high after rioting during the weekend linked to the death of former Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang, residents said.

Teachers in Changsha, Hunan province, quoted students as saying 300 to 400 people had been arrested in rioting but only a few students were involved. A local official said only 20 to 30 had been detained.

At Peking University, students

put up posters outside the campus calling for press freedom and democracy, attracting crowds of curious workers, in the first political poster campaign to appear on the streets of the capital since the ill-fated "democracy wall" movement 10 years ago.

Organisers of last week's huge demonstrations in central Peking held a rally of about 4,000 students to announce plans for new democratically-elected student associations to replace existing, officially-sponsored bodies.

But the meeting on Peking University's sports ground ended in uproar and acrimony after some students on the nine-member organising committee called for the expulsion of another as an alleged infiltrator working for authorities.

Zhang Zhiyong, the accused activist, who is also representative of an official student body,

was prevented from addressing the crowd, hundreds of whom walked away in disgust. Other student leaders opposed the expulsion, calling for unity.

"This is not democracy, it is just chaos and it gives a very bad impression to students who are unsure whether to take part. It is sad," a woman student commented.

Earlier, the rally heard calls for the release of political prisoners,

the end to the constitutional "leading role" of the Communist Party, and the resignation of premier Li Peng and vice-premier Yao Yilin.

"Our initial goal is dialogue with the government," one activist told the crowd, to a roar of applause.

Wang Dan, a history student, said their campaign was "the most important student campaign for 70 years," referring to the 1919 May 4 movement, whose anniversary is expected to be marked by new demonstrations.

Turning point
"We are at an historical turning

point. The leaders have seen what the power of the people is. History will show that our actions were just ones," he declared.

At Qinghua University, 2,500

students gave thunderous applause to prominent academic Chen Mingyuan who made an outdoor speech attacking China's propagandist media.

"You (the media) are not deaf

and dumb, why don't you admit

you have made mistakes," he said.

"When you go to bed at night, think about why you can't sleep."

"They (the leaders) have transplanted on the constitution. We are

defending it," said Chen, a phi-

losopher from the Chinese

Academy of Social Sciences. Chi-

na's constitution guarantees free-

dom of speech, press and associa-

tion and the right to demonstrate.

Students from the University of

Politics and Law marched

through streets in the northwest

of the city collecting donations

from passers-by. Neither college

officials nor police made any

effort to obstruct them.



Thousands of Chinese students demonstrate in front of the Great Hall of People in Peking demanding democracy.

the vitriolic personal attacks

made on officials during the

Cultural Revolution of the 1960s

and 1970s have appeared at Pek-

ing Teaching University.

Some lampoon the premier as a

pig and a snail, "afraid to come

out of his shell and face students"

and the official New China

News Agency as a dog with the

word "rumour" written on its

tongue.

Another shows national leader

Deng Xiaoping, party chief Zhao

Ziyan and Li adrift in a boat,

unable to decide which way to

steer.

Zhao left the student unrest

behind him Monday, arriving in

North Korea for his first official

foreign visit for nearly two years.

COLUMN

Opera star gets cheering welcome

LONDON (AP) — Amid emotional scenes, the audience at London's Covent Garden Royal Opera House welcomed back Spanish tenor Jose Carreras after his recovery from leukemia. The audience rose and cheered as Carreras, 42, appeared on stage for a two-hour song recital. The crowd demanded encore after encore, stamped and applauded and showered the stage with flowers. Carreras, who says he is fully recovered and "100 per cent perfect," was clearly affected by the warmth of his Tuesday night reception. His leukemia was diagnosed in 1987. At one time doctors gave him a 10 per cent chance of recovery, but after bone marrow transplants and chemotherapy, he was pronounced fit and made his comeback after 150,000 opera lovers in Barcelona last July. Carreras, who now devotes part of his income to an international foundation he has set up to fight leukemia, bowed out with a bouquet of red roses presented on stage by Royal Opera chief Jeremy Isaacs.

Magic wand, fake files arrive for convention

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (AP) — When Paul Glaros arrived for a convention this week, he made sure he had the right equipment: magic wands, fake files and red noses. More than 1,000 amateur and professional pranksters from North America and Europe were scheduled to attend the World Clown Association's National Convention, which began Wednesday and runs through Sunday. "Look," Glaros, 65, said in a child's voice as he reached into a big paper bag for what was supposed to be a sandwich. But he cried out in mock pain as he removed his hand, to which an oversized mousetrap was attached. Glaros and his 34-year-old wife, April, are proprietors as well as performers. The snap-trap painless mousetrap is one of the premier products sold by the couple's Norfolk, Virginia, business, mirth for all reasons. Other silly supplies include plastic whistles, magic hats, flowers-from-a-handkerchief kits, and balls that change colour.

Sex survey causes uproar

WASHINGTON (R) — A government plan to survey America's sex life in explicit detail — including names of partners — has run into trouble because of public opposition. U.S. Budget Director Richard Darman, responsible for supervising the survey, has sent it back to the federal health and human services department for re-drafting after hundreds of people complained it would be a gross invasion of their privacy. The survey was originally aimed at collecting more information on AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). It expanded into an exhaustive survey of U.S. sexual habits. An internal memorandum written late last year by Robert Windom, then an assistant secretary for health, said the five-centimetre thick sex questionnaire "necessarily involves explicit and sensitive questions." An accompanying document estimated it would take a little over an hour to answer for someone with one or two lovers in the past year, but far longer for the more promiscuous. Details were requested on every sexual contact over the preceding year.

West Germany cut off aid in 1984 in protest at a crackdown on political opposition and Britain has said it will not help Nicaragua until it takes steps to democracy. Ortega was to leave Paris Monday for talks with European Community leaders in Brussels and meet Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Wednesday. He will also visit Greece, Italy, Ireland, Norway and Sweden in the most extensive foreign trip he has undertaken.

Ortega wants Europe to mend his fence with U.S.

Takeshita reportedly asks Ito to take over the helm

TOKYO (R) — A leading mass-circulation Japanese newspaper said Monday Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, under fire over the Recruit scandal, had asked veteran party leader Masayoshi Ito to succeed him.

But the former foreign minister told reporters in remarks broadcast on television: "It is not true. I am not so stupid as to do it."

He did not elaborate and Jiji and Kyodo news agencies said Takeshita also denied the Yomiuri Shimbun report. Officials at the prime minister's office declined comment.

Yomiuri quoted "senior politicians close to Takeshita" as saying he could resign as early as next month after passage of the 1989/1990 budget bill through Parliament.

The newspaper said Takeshita asked Ito, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) executive board, to succeed him as party president and prime minister but Ito refused on health and other unspecified grounds.

Ito, 75, is the only senior party leader not implicated in the Recruit scandal that has already forced the resignation of three cabinet ministers.

He is reported to be suffering from diabetes and is reluctant to take over the post and fight what is expected to be an uphill battle to win a scheduled upper house election in August.

The popularity of the ruling LDP has fallen to rock-bottom as a result of the scandal, a controversial sales tax introduced



Noboru Takeshita



Masayoshi Ito

before he leaves April 29 for a tour of southeast Asian countries.

Opposition parties have blockaded deliberations on the budget to back calls for full disclosure on the Recruit scandal.

Earlier Monday, Kyodo quoted a veteran LDP politician only identified as a party elder from Abe's faction, as saying Takeshita was likely to quit after the passage of the 60.4 trillion-yen (\$457 billion) budget.

Takeshita would be the first prime minister to be forced into resignation over a political scandal since Kakuei Tanaka quit in December 1974 over shady real estate dealings.

More and more LDP lawmakers, as well as senior businessmen, have called on Takeshita to step down after a series of defeats and setbacks in local elections.

Ortega wants Europe to mend his fence with U.S.

PARIS (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, starting a European tour, said Monday he wanted Europe to help his country normalize ties with the United States.

"We want to normalize our relations with the U.S. We are not their enemies," Ortega, dressed in battle fatigues, told a news conference. "We want to know exactly what they have against us so we can reply."

Ortega, on the first leg of a 10-nation swing through Western Europe, said he would ask French President Francois Mitterrand to speak on behalf of war-tattered Nicaragua when he met President George Bush in May in the United States.

In West Germany and Britain, where he is to meet Europe's foremost conservative leaders for

the first time, Ortega said he would also ask Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to intercede with Washington.

The Nicaraguan leader said he believed Bush was ready to change heart towards the ruling Sandinistas, who have fought for eight years against U.S.-backed contra rebels, but was trapped by the tough line of the previous Reagan administration.

"I do not believe Bush wants a repetition of history," he said. "But violence is rampant across Central America and if the situation worsens it will be difficult for the Americans to implement a new policy."

Ortega said he would press Europeans to back a regional peace plan signed in El Salvador in February and seek financial

aid. Nicaragua, cut off from international credit because of U.S. pressure and heavily reliant on socialist countries, is hoping to clinch \$250 million of Western aid next month at a Stockholm conference of donor countries.

West Germany cut off aid in 1984 in protest at a crackdown on political opposition and Britain has said it will not help Nicaragua until it takes steps to democracy.

Ortega was to leave Paris Monday for talks with European Community leaders in Brussels and meet Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Wednesday. He will also visit Greece, Italy, Ireland, Norway and Sweden in the most extensive foreign trip he has undertaken.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
AMSTERDAM	05 41	06 48	Cloudy				
ATHENS	11 52	26 79	Cloudy				
BAHRAM	24 57	34 93	Clear				
BANGKOK	28 32	37 99	Clear				
BUENOS AIRES	18 64	23 73	Cloudy				
CAIRO	20 66	34 93	Clear				
CHICAGO	05 43	16 51	Rain				
COPENHAGEN	01 34	02 48	Clear				
FRANKFURT	02 36	12 54	Clear				
GENEVA	01 34	14 57	Clear				
HONGKONG	19 65	26 77	Clear				
ISTANBUL	04 32	18 52	Cloudy				
LOS ANGELES	11 22	28 49	Cloudy				
MADRID	09 49	19 68	Cloudy				
MECCA	26 59	49 104	Cloudy				
MILAN	03 26	28 79	Cloudy				
MONTREAL	03 27	05 41	Cloudy				
NEW DELHI	22 50	53 100	Clear				
NEW YORK	01 34	15 59	Clear				
PARIS	07 45	16 61	Cloudy				
ROME	08 49	17 63	Cloudy				
TOKYO	14 57	21 70	Cloudy				
THAILAND	05 45	20 75	Cloudy				

being investigated. Government sources said Storm